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4. (Twice Amended) A [D]directly compressible tableting aid, according to Claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein it is obtainable by dissolving xylitol and at least one other polyol in water and fluidizing the resulting aqueous mixture in a stream of air at a temperature of from 30°C to 110°C.

5. (Twice Amended) A [D]directly compressible tableting aid according to Claim 1, wherein the [characterized in that] xylitol and mannitol[,]; xylitol and lactitol; or xylitol, mannitol and lactitol are employed as polyols.

6. (Amended) A [D]directly compressible tableting aid according to Claim 5, [characterized in that] wherein the ratio of xylitol to mannitol is [in a range between] 90:10 to 98:2[, in particular between 90:10 to 95:5].

7. (Amended) A [D]directly compressible tableting aid according to Claim 5, [characterized in that] wherein the ratio of xylitol to lactitol is [in a range between] 90:10 to 98:2[, in particular between 90:10 to 95:5].

8. (Amended) A [D]directly compressible tableting aid according to Claim 5, [characterized in that] wherein the xylitol:mannitol:lactitol ratio is [in a range] between 90:1:9 or 90:9:1 and 98:1:1.

9. (Twice Amended) A [D]directly compressible tableting aid according to Claim 1, [characterized in that]wherein the water content is less than 1% by weight.

10. (Twice Amended) A [P]process for producing a directly compressible tableting aid according to Claim 1, [characterized in that it comprises the following steps] comprising:

- a) producing an aqueous solution of xylitol and at least one other polyol, the resulting mixture having a xylitol content of more than 90% by weight based on the total polyol content,

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- b1) spraying the resulting mixture in a stream of air at a temperature of from 120°C to 300°C, evaporation of the water taking place,
 - b2) fluidizing the resulting mixture in a stream of air at a temperature of from 30°C to 110°C, evaporation of the water taking place, and
 - c) isolating the tableting aid.

11. (Twice Amended) [Use of a directly compressible tableting aid according to Claim 1 for] A method for producing a shaped [and] or unshaped polyol composition[s] by melt [extrusion] extruding a directly compressible tableting aid mixture according to Claim 1.

12. (Twice Amended) A composition or formulation [Compositions or formulations, characterized in that they comprise] comprising a directly compressible tableting aid according to Claim 1.

13. (Twice Amended) A [S]solid form[s] or compact[s], [characterized in that] comprising [they comprise] a directly compressible tableting aid according to Claim 1.

14. (Amended) A [S]solid form[s] or compact[s] according to Claim 13, [characterized in that] comprising [they comprise] one or more water-insoluble and/or water-soluble additions homogeneously dispersed.

15. (Twice Amended) A [S]solid form[s] or compact[s] according to Claim 13, [characterized in that] comprising [they comprise] citric acid as addition.

16. (Twice Amended) A [S]solid form[s] or compact[s] according to Claim 13, [characterized in that] comprising at least [they comprise] one [or more additions selected from the group of] active pharmaceutical ingredient[s], sweetener[s], colorant[s], vitamin[s] [and] or trace element[s].

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17. (Amended) A [S]solid form[s] or compact[s] according to Claim 16, [characterized in that] comprising at least [they comprise] one [or more] active pharmaceutical ingredient[s] [selected from the group of] which is an analgesics [and] or antacid[s].

18. (Amended) A [S]solid form[s] or compact[s] according to Claim 16, [characterized in that] comprising at least [they comprise] one [or more] sweetener[s] [selected from the group of] which is acesulfame K, aspartame, saccharin, cyclamate, sucralose [and] or neohesperidine DC.

Please add the following new claims.

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-- 19. A directly compressible tableting aid according to Claim 5, wherein the ratio of xylitol to mannitol is in a range between 90:10 to 95:5.

20. A directly compressible tableting aid according to Claim 5, wherein the ratio of xylitol to lactitol is in a range between 90:10 to 95:5. --

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application with claims 19 and 20 added by this amendment. Support for the claims may be found in the claims as originally filed.

Claim Objection

Applicants respectfully submit that this objection should be withdrawn and claim 10 examined because the objected language was removed by the preliminary amendment filed April 14, 2000.